

What is claimed is:

1. A ribbon cassette, comprising:

a ribbon supply spool;

a ribbon take up spool that takes up an ink ribbon from said ribbon supply spool by rotating in a first rotation direction, said ribbon take up spool being provided with an engaging portion; and

an engaging member that resiliently engages with said engaging portion to prevent said ribbon take up spool from rotating in a second rotation direction opposite to said first rotation direction, said engaging member coming off from said engaging portion when said ribbon take up spool rotates in said first direction.

2. The ribbon cassette according to claim 1, wherein said engaging portion includes first and second walls arranged in said second rotation direction in this order, said engaging member engaging with said engaging portion by dropping into a space defined between said first and second walls, said first wall being defined along a plane including a rotation axis of said ribbon take up spool.

3. The ribbon cassette according to claim 2, wherein said second wall is formed so as to allow said engaging member

to come off from said engaging portion by sliding along said second wall when said ribbon take up spool is rotated in said first rotation direction.

4. The ribbon cassette according to claim 3, wherein said second wall is inclined to face outside said ribbon take up spool.

5. The ribbon cassette according to claim 1, wherein said ribbon take up spool has substantially a cylindrical wall, and

wherein said engaging portion is a slit formed through said cylindrical wall.

6. The ribbon cassette according to claim 5, wherein said cylindrical wall is provided with a plurality of said slits arranged in a circumferential direction of said cylindrical wall.

7. The ribbon cassette according to claim 1,

wherein said ribbon take up spool is provided with a pair of brims, said ink ribbon being wound around said ribbon take up spool at a space defined between said pair of brims, and

wherein said engaging portion is located outside said

pair of brims.

8. The ribbon cassette according to claim 1, further comprising a cassette case that accommodates said ribbon supply spool and said ribbon take up spool, said engaging member being held by said cassette case and thereby prevented from rotating together with said ribbon take up spool.

9. The ribbon cassette according to claim 8, wherein said engaging member is a single wire rod including:

an arc portion that extends along a circumferential wall of said ribbon take up spool;

a linear portion formed at one end of said wire rod;

and

a bent portion defined between said arc portion and said linear portion so as to allow said linear portion to extend in substantially a radial direction of said ribbon take up spool,

wherein said engaging member engages with said engaging portion at said bent portion and is supported by said cassette case at said linear portion so as not to rotate together with said ribbon take up spool.

10. The ribbon cassette according to claim 9, wherein said

cassette case is provided with a groove for holding said engaging member.

11. The ribbon cassette according to claim 9, wherein said cassette case is provided with a tube like portion for holding said engaging member.

12. The ribbon cassette according to claim 9, wherein said cassette case having a pair of ribs for holding said engaging member.

13. The ribbon cassette according to claim 9, wherein said engaging member further includes an additional linear portion formed between said bent portion and said arc portion, said additional linear portion is bent inwardly against said arc portion.

14. The ribbon cassette according to claim 9, wherein said arc portion has a smaller radius of curvature than said circumferential wall of said ribbon take up spool.

15. The ribbon cassette according to claim 9, wherein said ribbon take up spool is provided with a circumferential groove for receiving said arc portion of said engaging member.

16. The ribbon cassette according to claim 15, wherein said arc portion has a smaller radius of curvature than said circumferential groove.

17. The ribbon cassette according to claim 15,
wherein said ribbon take up spool is provided with a pair of brims, said ink ribbon being wound around said ribbon take up spool at a space defined between said pair of brims, and

wherein said circumferential groove is located outside said pair of brims.

18. The ribbon cassette according to claim 9,
wherein said ribbon take up spool is provided with a pair of brims, said ink ribbon being wound around said ribbon take up spool at a space defined between said pair of brims, and

wherein said arc portion of said engaging member is located outside said pair of brims.

19. The ribbon cassette according to claim 18, wherein said engaging member further includes an extending portion extending from an end of said arc portion opposite from said linear portion substantially along said radial

direction of said ribbon take up spool.

20. The ribbon cassette according to claim 9, wherein said arc portion is a major arc.